GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5478
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2002
ACCELERATED RURAL WATER SUPPLY PROGRAMME
ARUN KUMAR;PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 2371 schemes were abandoned leading to infructuous expenditure of Rs.197.52 crore relating to Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme launched in 1972-73;

(b) if so, the reasons for abandoning these schemes;

(c) whether an enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the officials found responsible for the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA)

(a)to(e): Rural Water Supply being a State subject, the schemes for providing drinking water supply in rural areas are implemented by the State Governments with their own resources. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the States by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and the Drinking Water Supply component of the Prime Minister`s Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). The powers to plan, sanction and implement Rural Water Supply schemes under the above programmes rests with the State Governments. In the Draft All India Review by Office of the Principal Director of Audit on Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) there is mention of application of funds without adequate planning and scientific identification of water sources which resulted in abandonment of 2413 schemes mid way after spending Rs. 193.75 crore in 19 States. As the implementation of ARWSP is the responsibility of the State Governments, Draft All India Review by office of the Principal Director of Audit on ARWSP has been sent to the State Governments for taking necessary action including verification of all irregularities and discrepancies.